

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 069189  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: AF/S:JDAVIDOW

APPROVED BY: AF/S:DKPETTERSON

S/S-O:SRPVALERGA

-----019407 170455Z /15

O 170402Z MAR 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069189

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT DAR ES SALAAM 1141 SENT ACTION SECSTATE,  
INFO CAP TOWN, GABORONE, LONDON, LUSAKA, MAPUTO, USUN NEW  
YORK 16 MAR 78

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 1141

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

FOR DICK MOOSE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: PROPOSED TALKING POINTS TO FRONT LINE AND  
NIGERIA

REF: STATE 067380

1. THERE ARE ELEMENTS OF TRUTH IN OWEN'S BLISTERING OF THE PF  
TO THE FL PROPOSED IN REFTTEL, BUT THEY ARE EXAGGERATED. THERE  
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ARE ALSO USEFUL RESTATEMENTS OF POSITIONS ON WHICH THE UK HAS  
BEEN RELUCTANT TO SPEAK CLEARLY IN RECENT DAYS (E.G., MENTION  
OF AN ARMY BASED ON THE LIBERATION FORCES), BUT THESE ARE  
COUPLED WITH CHARGES AGAINST THE PF WHICH WILL SIMPLY ANTAGONIZE  
NYERERE.

2. IN VIEW OF (A) KAUNDA'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER (STATE

067150), (B) OBASANJO'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER (STATE 067192), (C) SITHOLE'S LETTER TO OWEN (STATE 066330), AND (D) BRITISH DETERMINATION TO GO AHEAD WITH APPROACH TO SMITH GOVERNMENT (STATE 067376), I SEE NOTHING AT ALL TO BE GAINED BY THE JOINT APPROACH PROPOSED REFTTEL.

3. NYERERE'S ANSWER WILL SIMPLY BE, "THE PF HAS ALREADY TOLD YOU IT WANTS TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT THE A-AP. I HAVE TOLD YOU THAT I THINK THE REMAINING GAPS BETWEEN THE A-AP AND THE PF ARE BRIDGEABLE. AND I HAVE TOLD YOU I WILL DO ALL I CAN TO ENCOURAGE THE PF TO GO FORWARD ALONG THE LINES OF THE A-AP."

4. NYERERE IS BARELY SATISFIED NOW WITH THE CRITICISM OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT HE HAS SQUEEZED OUT OF CALLAGHAN AND OWEN. TO COME TO HIM WITH A BLAST DIRECTED ALMOST ENTIRELY AT THE PF IS LIKELY TO AWAKEN ALL THE SUSPICIONS WE HAVE JUST (ALMOST) ALLAYED. WE COULD EASILY END UP WITH HIM DEFENDING THE PF AGAINST OUR CHARGES RATHER THAN ENCOURAGING THE PF TO COOPERATE WITH US, AS IS NOW THE CASE.

5. THE MOST USEFUL THING IN THE OWEN MESSAGE, IT SEEMS TO ME, IS IN THE LAST PARAGRAPH WHERE HE SAYS THAT THE ONLY OPTION MAY BE TO LET OUR PROPOSAL LIE ON THE TABLE WHILE PRESSURES DEVELOP ON THE PARTIES TO SEEK OUR HELP IN ARRANGING FURTHER NEGOTIATION.

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6. FOR THE MOMENT, I RECOMMEND DOING (AS OPPOSED TO SAYING) JUST THAT. WE HAVE AVOIDED THE CONFRONTATION OF A VETO IN THE UN. US BONA FIDES REMAIN GOOD. THE FRONT LINE AND NIGERIA ARE FIRMLY SEIZED OF THE PROBLEM. LET US GIVE THEM A FEW WEEKS TO THINK IT OUT AMONG THEMSELVES AND THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS A CHANCE TO GET A FEELING FOR WHAT IT IS LIKE BEING ALL ALONE WITH SMITH.

7. WE ARE LIKELY TO HEAR FROM ALL OR MOST OF THEM AGAIN BEFORE VERY LONG, PERHAPS WITH PROPOSALS (RATHER THAN EXHORTATIONS OF THE KIND IN THE KAUNDA, OBASANJO, AND SITHOLE LETTERS). MEANWHILE, WE CAN STAY IN NORMAL, LISTENING CONTACT WITH ALL PARTIES (WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE LOWER LEVEL FOLLOW-UP ON MALTA WITH PF.) IF NO ONE COMES BACK TO US, WE CAN AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME PRECIPITATE THINGS BY SUGGESTING WE ARE GOING TO WITHDRAW THE PROPOSAL FOR AN ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE IN VIEW OF THE LACK OF RESPONSE.  
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## Message Attributes

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